

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits the present amendment as placing this amendment in condition for allowance, and requests its entry under the provisions of Rule 312.

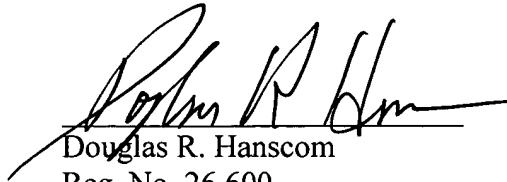
Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12, which corresponds essentially to the description of allowable subject matter provided in the Final Action. There are, however, two points to note as to this amendment. First, the depth dimension in claim 9 was previously recited as having a minimum of 0.300". This has been reduced in the claim to 0.250", but involves no new matter since the specification at paragraph [012] gives a smaller dimensional depth limit of 0.200", and the example given at paragraph [025] gives a "maximum" depth dimension of 0.275".

Claim 9 as amended also does not include the limitations of claim 11, from which claim 12 was also dependent. Claims 10 and 11 are now combined as claim 11, and deal with the slot between the interior aperture and the posterior boundary, which slot is characterized as uniquely identifying the blade type. In view of the fact that the allowable subject matter, as described in the Office action, deals with different aspects not essential to the slot, it is submitted that both claims 9 and 11, as currently amended are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas R. Hanscom", is written over a horizontal line.

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